

## **Book Reviews**

**Catalog of Teratogenic Agents.** THOMAS H. SHEPARD. (1973). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 224 pp. Price £4.50.

This book, containing 649 separate items, is a valuable source of information on teratogenic agents for both clinician and scientist. References are predominantly concerned with experimental teratology but the information is linked to that on congenital defects found in man. Also included are a number of compounds often considered to be teratogenic but with substantially negative effects although, overall, the book is a catalogue and does not attempt to make a critical analysis of the data. Preparation has been simplified by the use of a computer programme which makes the format unattractive. However, this is justified on the grounds of speed of assembly and low production cost. There appear, on a quick assessment, to be a number of minor errors in the spelling despite the computer's scrutiny. The use of an initial oo- for all the catalogue numbers is unnecessary suggesting only a rather different kind of special agent. There is also a table comparing the timing of stages in embryonic and foetal development for different species which might have been more appropriately located with the notes in the text rather than on the endpapers.

A. W. CRAIG

**Monographs on Oncology—The Chest.** THOMAS J. DEELEY. (1973). London: Butterworths. Price £2.25.

This is a paperback volume of 109 pages devoted mainly to cancer of the lung in its many aspects but with supplementary chapters on secondary deposits in the lungs and in the mediastinum. The author's objective is to present a broad picture which may improve the understanding of the more specialized reader and help to achieve greater inter-disciplinary co-operation. He deserves to succeed for his style is easy, his presentation is balanced and he does not overload his text with indigestible facts.

Having stimulated his reader however, he has a duty to provide him with directions to a wide range of further reading; limited bibliographies and references are included but these could be expanded with advantage and without interfering with the clarity of the text.

This book can be recommended as part of the general reading for a trainee in any of the disciplines covered by oncology, from basic science through medicine to education, and it will also be of value to nurses and radiographers.

I. D. H. TODD

**The Spread of Tumours in the Human Body.** R. A. WILLIS. (1973). 3rd edition. London: Butterworths. Price £8.

The first edition of this well-known book appeared in 1934, the earliest of a series of volumes which put Professor Willis in the forefront of authors writing on human pathology. This book is based on the results of a consecutive series of 500 necropsies on cases of malignant disease, together with an exhaustive review of the literature up to that time. A second edition appeared in 1952. As Professor Willis notes in his preface to this third edition, it is impossible to read and assimilate the enormous volume of recent publications on the subject of tumour spread, and he has therefore selected 350 representative recent references for inclusion, as well as rewriting parts of the text.

Essentially, therefore, this is the same book as the original. The reader will not find much discussion of, say, the roles of local cell-mediated immunity, or of proteolytic enzymes, in the spread of neoplasms. Most of the references are to papers published before 1939, and indeed a substantial proportion date from the previous century.

However, any criticism on these grounds would be beside the point, because this book is now itself one of the classical texts in human pathology, a work of scrupulous scholarship, based on careful personal observations and a critical and exhaustive appraisal of the earlier literature. It is written with

the clarity and trenchancy characteristic of its author; no one in recent years has done more to clear the field of tumour pathology of the debris of bogus entities and ill-founded theories.

The book has been re-set, and the illustrations (mostly photomicrographs) gathered together at the end of the text. One or two of the prints (such as Figs. 10 and 66) might

have been improved, but on the whole the illustrations wear their years well.

Those who possess earlier editions of this book may not, perhaps, feel justified in acquiring this new edition, but the book itself should be in the library of every hospital or research laboratory concerned with human tumours.

O. G. DODGE

### Meeting Announcements

#### ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CANCER CONGRESS

Florence, 20–26 October, 1974

The XI International Cancer Congress will be held in the Tuscany-Umbria area and will be centred chiefly in Florence. Historical and cultural reasons explain this choice, for Florence and most of the neighbouring cities have been seats of Universities and Academies over the centuries. Furthermore, this region is peculiarly suitable for a multi-centred congress because the cities where the scientific sessions will take place can easily be reached from the 2 residential centres of the Congress, Florence and Montecatini.

The International Cancer Congresses are multipurpose events and must provide for people of varying interests and background.

The design of the XI International Cancer Congress was patterned on the preceding one successfully held in Houston, Texas, in 1970. The Opening Ceremony will take place in Florence on 20 October.

During the first 2 days, 10 Conferences

will be held in 6 different towns. Participants are required to make a choice as to the Conference they wish to attend because it is the deliberate intent of the Union to prevent participants from moving from one Conference to another.

The following 3 days will be devoted to Symposia and Proffered Papers. All sessions will be held in Florence itself thus affording many opportunities for participants to meet.

The Memorial Lecture and the closing ceremony will take place on Friday, 25 October, in the afternoon. Advanced Courses on Clinical Oncology will be given in Florence on Saturday, 26 October.

For further information write to: General Secretariat, XI International Cancer Congress, Via G. Venezian, 1, 20133 Milan. Cable address: Flogress-Milan, Tel. 2364453.

#### FIRST VIENNA MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH IN MEDICINE

MOLECULAR BASE OF MALIGNANCY: NEW CLINICAL AND THERAPEUTIC EVIDENCES

Vienna, 30–31 October, 1974

**Organizing Committee:** E. Deutsch, K. Moser, H. Rainer, A. Stacher.

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